

To prove by induction that it takes exactly  $F_n$  recursive calls to `fibonacci(1)` when computing `fibonacci(n)`, where  $F_n$  is the  $n$ -th Fibonacci number, we need to analyze the recursive structure of the Fibonacci sequence and establish the relationship between the number of calls to `fibonacci(1)` and the Fibonacci numbers.

## Fibonacci Function Analysis

The given `fibonacci` method is a direct recursive implementation of the Fibonacci sequence:

```
public static long fibonacci(int n) {
    if (n == 0) return 0;
    if (n == 1) return 1;
    return fibonacci(n-1) + fibonacci(n-2);
}
```

The Fibonacci numbers are defined as:  $F_0 = 0$   $F_1 = 1$   $F_n = F_{n-1} + F_{n-2}$  for  $n \geq 2$

## Induction Proof

### Base Cases

1. For  $n = 0$ :

- `fibonacci(0)` directly returns 0 without making any recursive calls.
- Therefore, there are 0 calls to `fibonacci(1)`.
- $F_0 = 0$ , which matches the number of calls.

2. For  $n = 1$ :

- `fibonacci(1)` directly returns 1 without making any recursive calls.
- Therefore, there is 1 call to `fibonacci(1)`.
- $F_1 = 1$ , which matches the number of calls.

These base cases hold true.

### Inductive Step

Assume that for some  $k \geq 1$ , the number of recursive calls to `fibonacci(1)` when computing `fibonacci(k)` is exactly  $F_k$ .

We need to show that the number of recursive calls to `fibonacci(1)` when computing `fibonacci(k+1)` is exactly  $F_{k+1}$ .

When computing `fibonacci(k+1)`, the function makes the following calls:

- `fibonacci(k)`
- `fibonacci(k-1)`

According to the inductive hypothesis:

- The number of calls to `fibonacci(1)` in `fibonacci(k)` is  $F_k$ .
- The number of calls to `fibonacci(1)` in `fibonacci(k-1)` is  $F_{k-1}$ .

Therefore, the total number of calls to `fibonacci(1)` when computing

`fibonacci(k+1)` is:  $\text{Calls}(k+1) = \text{Calls}(k) + \text{Calls}(k-1)$

$$\text{Calls}(k+1) = F_k + F_{k-1}$$

By the definition of the Fibonacci sequence:  $F_{k+1} = F_k + F_{k-1}$

Thus:  $\text{Calls}(k+1) = F_{k+1}$

This completes the inductive step, showing that the number of calls to `fibonacci(1)` when computing `fibonacci(n)` is exactly  $F_n$ .

## Conclusion

By mathematical induction, we have shown that it takes exactly  $F_n$  recursive calls to `fibonacci(1)` when computing `fibonacci(n)`, where  $F_n$  is the  $n$ -th Fibonacci number. This completes the proof.